

REMARKS

The instant Application was filed on December 3, 2003 and contained claims 1-20. In an Office Action, the Office rejected claims 1-6 and 11-20. The Office has objected to claims 7-10. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 6 and 7. Applicants have also cancelled claims 6, 7 and 14-20. In view of the amendments, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and request re-examination thereof.

The Office Action

The Office has rejected claims 1-6 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5512145 ('145) to Hollenberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 5859397 ('397) to Ichinose, et al.

The Office has rejected claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5512145 ('145) to Hollenberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 3754147 ('147) to Hancock.

The Office has objected to claims 7 and 10 as being allowable but dependent on a rejected base claim.

The Rejections and Objection

The Office has rejected claims 1-6 and 11-20 and has objected to claims 7-10.

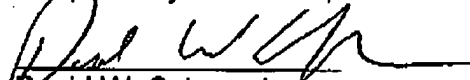
Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claims 6 and 7. Claims 6, 7 and 14-20 have been cancelled. The rejections and objections are now moot and withdrawal thereof is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 remain at issue. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request timely notice of allowance thereof.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions which would place the instant application in better condition for allowance, Applicants earnestly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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